Date

Dear [veterinarian’s name],

I am participating in a Citizen Science Epidemiological Research Study of Urinary Calculi in Wethered Goats being led by the North American Packgoat Association (NAPgA) in conjunction with Co-Investigator Meera Heller, DVM, PhD, DACVIM of University of California Davis (UC Davis) and Margaret A. Highland, DVM, PhD, Dipl. ACVP (Pathology and Professional Veterinary Services Section Head and Diagnostic Pathologist at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Madison, WI).

The objective of the study is to identify possible effects of diet, water, minerals, body condition, age and method of castration, animal husbandry, geographic and environmental factors associated with the development of urinary calculi in wethered goats used as pack animals and related optimal standards for the prevention thereof. This initial study will follow my identified wethers for a period of three years.

Urinary Calculi (urolithiasis) affects male goats, particularly wethered goats, at an alarming rate in nearly all user groups such as dairy, fiber, meat, show, 4-H, special purpose (brush control and packgoats), and pets and across all breeds. It is nearly always fatal and takes a devastating emotional toll on owners.

As a study participant I may need your services for blood draws, stone collection, and necropsy of any of my wethers that are in the study. Further information on details of the necropsy can be found in the attached pages. The urinary tracts of any wether that dies within the study period and any stones collected will be evaluated for additional information on urinary calculi. The blood draws will be banked for potential DNA studies if a genetic link is suspected and we are able to secure financial backing.

NAPgA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, in-kind donations are tax deductible. Any services you are willing to provide in-kind – whether the full cost or a partial cost of the procedure(s), would be greatly appreciated. You will receive a letter of donation from NAPgA for all donations.

Sincerely,

participant name

address

phone

email

number of wethers in the study